

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

5 **Listing of claims:**

Claim 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (New) A method for protecting a patient from embolization during an open surgical procedure, comprising the steps of:

making an incision in an aorta;

10 introducing a distal end of a cannula into the aorta through the incision, wherein the cannula has an outer surface, a distal end adapted to enter an artery, a proximal end, a filter disposed about the distal end of the cannula which is expandable between a contracted condition and an enlarged condition, and an occluder which is expandable between a contracted condition and an expanded condition, and wherein the filter is in the
15 contracted condition;

expanding the filter;

expanding the occluder to occlude the aorta in a region upstream of the filter, and thereafter contracting the occluder;

contracting the filter; and

20 removing the cannula and captured embolic material from the aorta.

4. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the cannula is adapted to receive blood from a bypass-oxygenator machine.

25 5. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of expanding the occluder is followed by the steps of:

supplying blood to the aorta from a bypass-oxygenator machine by way of the cannula; and

performing a surgical procedure on at least one of the heart, aorta upstream of the occluder, and vasculature associated with the heart and/or aorta.

6. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the cannula further comprises a pressurizing cannula shaped to receive the cannula and wherein the filter includes an inflation seal.

7. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the pressurizing cannula further includes an inflation system comprising a first lumen adapted to receive pressurized fluid and a second lumen adapted to evacuate gas, and wherein the inflation seal further includes an entry port in fluid communication with the first lumen of the pressurizing cannula and an exit port in fluid communication with the second lumen of the pressurizing cannula, so that when fluid is advanced through the first lumen, the fluid enters the inflation seal and forces gas from the inflation seal through the second lumen, thereby purging the system of gas.

8. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the cannula further comprises a handle slideably disposed about the cannula and enclosing the filter and occluder when the filter and the occluder are in the contracted condition, and wherein the method of protecting a patient further comprises the step of moving the handle in a proximal direction to release the filter and occluder and allow same to be activated to an expanded condition.

9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the occluder is disposed circumferentially about the cannula.

10. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the occluder is disposed at a radial position along the side of the cannula.